

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6363

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DEPT PASS NASA FOR FRUTKIN AND GODDARD, CODE 800

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TSPA, IR

SUBJ: SITE SURVEY FOR PORTABLE LANDSAT RECEIVER

1. EMBASSY DELIVERED NOTE TO FOREIGN OFFICE 6 APRIL, THE TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS: (NOTE NO 214)

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE IMPERIAL IRANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS THE HONOR TO REQUEST ITS COOPERATION IN A SCIENTIFIC PROJECT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE PROJECT IN QUESTION IS THE LARGE AREA CROP INVENTORY EXPERIMENT(LACIE), A SCIENTIFIC STUDY TO DETERMINE WHETHER COMPUTER-ANALYZED SATELLITE DATA CAN BE USED TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY AND TIMELINESS OF CROP FORECASTS. THE FEASIBILITY OF USING REMOTELY SENSED DATA ACQUIRED FROM LANDSAT-1 AND LANDSAT 2 SATELLITES TO INVENTORY WHEAT CROPS IN NORTH AMERICA HAS ALREADY BEEN DEMONSTRATED, AND THIS YEAR THE U.S. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION(NSAS) WISHES TO EXTEND THE STUDY TO PORTIONS OF EUROPE AND ASIA. EVENTUALLY IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO UTILIZE REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY FOR WORLDWIDE CROP ACREAGES AND YIELD ESTIMATIONS, A POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM.

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IN ORDER TO MONITOR THE ENTIRE GROWING SEASON, NASA WOULD

LIKE TO ESTABLISH ON A TEMPORARY BASIS A PORTABLE LANDSAT RECEIVING STATION SOMEWHERE IN IRAN, PAKISTAN, OR INDIA TO BEGIN OPERATION JUNE 1, 1976. EACH DAY OF DELAY IN BECOMING OPERATIONAL AFTER THAT DATE GREATLY REDUCES THE VALUE OF THE STUDY, AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE URGENCY ATTACHED TO FINDING A SUITABLE SITE, PREPARATION OF THE SITE, COMPLETING NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPORTATION OF THE EQUIPMENT, ESTABLISHING THE NECESSARY COMMUNICATIONS TO THE GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER IN MARYLAND, U.S.A., AND PROVIDING A CHANNEL FOR EXPEDITIOUS MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN OF DATA TAPES, SPARE PARTS, AND TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL LITERATURE.

THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT THE PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION OF THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IS IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING ITS OWN PERMANENT LANDSAT RECEIVING STATION NEAR KARAJ UNDER A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH NASA, BUT THIS FACILITY WILL NOT BE OPERATIONAL UNTIL MARCH 1977, AT THE EARLIEST. NASA WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER SETTING UP ITS PORTABLE LANDSAT RECEIVING STATION (24-FOOT ANTENNA, RECEIVER AND DATA RECORDERS) AT OR NEAR THE PLANNED IRANIAN STATION AND TO OPERATE IT UNTIL THE PERMANENT IRANIAN STATION ITSELF BECOMES OPERATIONAL. THIS WOULD ASSURE THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF IRAN OF HAVING REMOTELY SENSED DATA OF AREAS OF INTEREST TO IRAN DURING MOST OF THE PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE IRANIAN STATION. NASA WOULD WELCOME PARTICIPATION OF IRANIAN PERSONNEL IN OPERATING THE TEMPORARY STATION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EXPERIENCE FOR IRANIAN STATION OPERATORS. DUE TO A LACK OF SATELLITE DATA PROCESSING CAPABILITY AT THE TEMPORARY STATION OR IN IRAN DURING THIS PERIOD, DATA ACQUIRED WOULD NECESSARILY BE SHIPPED TO THE GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER FOR PROCESSING, BUT COPIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO IRAN AS DESIRED.

WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION, A NASA TECHNICAL TEAM IS IN IRAN AT THE PRESENT TIME TO SURVEY FOR A POSSIBLE IRANIAN SITE FOR THE TEMPORARY RECEIVING STATION. IF A SITE IS FOUND WHICH IS SUITABLE FROM A TECHNICAL STANDPOINT AND IF THE PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN ITS INTERESTS TO COOPERATE WITH NASA IN THIS PROJECT, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MOVE VERY QUICKLY TO PREPARE THE SITE, AND MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS TO RECEIVE THE EQUIPMENT AND THE OPERATING TEAM OF SIX AMERICAN TECHNICIANS ON OR ABOUT MAY 14.

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THE EMBASSY RESPECTFULLY AND URGENTLY REQUESTS PRIOR APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF THE IMPERIAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THIS PROJECT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IF BOTH NASA AND THE PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION AGREE THAT THE TEMPORARY STATION SHOULD BE LOCATED IN IRAN, THE MINISTRY WILL USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO EXPEDITE ENTRY AND EXIT OF THE EQUIPMENT AND OPERATING SUPPLIES THROUGH IRANIAN CUSTOMS AND ACCORD TO THE NASA OPERATING TEAM

APPROPRIATE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

END TEXT

2. FOREIGN OFFICE DEPUTY LEGAL COUNSEL PLANS TO CIRCULATE NOTE BUT BELIEVES FURTHER PROGRESS DEPENDS UPON SUBMISSION OF DETAILED AGREEMENT NASA PROPOSES TO MAKE WITH PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION. HE SUGGESTS AGREEMENT COVER NATURE, PURPOSE, AND DURATION OF OPERATIONS, DESCRIPTION OF STATION EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, LOCATION, IMPORT AND RE-EXPORT REQUIREMENTS, AMERICAN PERSONNEL STAFFING LEVELS AND NECESSARY EXEMPTIONS FROM LOCAL TAX AND WORK PERMIT REQUIREMENTS. FOR DRAFTING PRUPOSES, THE ONLY IRANIAN CONTRIBUTION WILL BE LAND.

3. LOCAL LOCKHEED REPRESENTATIVE SAYS EMI SURVEY WAS DONE AT KARAJ SITE ONE YEAR AGO AND NO EMI DTECTED PLEASE VERIFY WITH RICHARD CARNES, LOCKHEED/HOUSTON AND ADVISE.
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